

Navy SEAL Caps Heroic Career

Suitland, Md. --- Lieutenant Mark L. Donald, holder of the America's second-highest award for valor, ended 24 years of service to the nation in a retirement ceremony on Friday, October 16th, at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C.

LT Donald, who was assigned to the Kennedy Irregular Warfare Center at the Office of Naval Intelligence, was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism in combat operations against Al Qaeda and Taliban enemy forces in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan in October 2003.

LT Donald repeatedly exposed himself to heavy enemy fire while providing medical aid to his American and Afghan comrades wounded in an ambush. Though wounded himself, he coordinated the evacuation of his fellow soldiers before attending to his own injuries.

One month later, in November 2003, LT Donald again displayed extraordinary courage by leading a mounted patrol out of an ambush, providing covering fire which enabled trapped soldiers to escape heavy enemy fire from machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades. For this heroic display of leadership, LT Donald was awarded the Silver Star.

A native of Albuquerque, NM, LT Donald began his service as a Reconnaissance Marine in 1985. In 1987, following his transfer to the U.S. Navy as a Hospital corpsman, he began service as a SEAL Corpsman.

LT Donald holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Nebraska and a Masters degree in Physician Assistant Studies, Medicine Specialty.

In addition to the Navy Cross and Silver Star, LT Donald holds the Bronze Star with "V" for combat distinction, the Purple Heart, Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2), Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3), Combat Action Ribbon (2), the Honduran Medal of Merit and many unit and campaign ribbons.